

# First United Methodist Church

*At this time, in this place, let us be the hands and heart of Jesus Christ for the world.*

May 2011

## The Visitor

Volume 53, Issue 5

### From Our Pastors:

As I take my leave as your interim pastor I want to express my great appreciation for FUMC. You are a great congregation with a tremendous history. It has been a pleasure to serve among you. Thanks to all who have extended good wishes as I return to my retirement life. May God bless you mightily as you continue in ministry with your new pastor, Don Lee. I shall continue to watch with interest as you grow in faith and ministry.

I'm deeply grateful for the privilege of serving on your "interim pastoral team" with John Sublett these past six months. Renewing connections with so many of you whom I've known for many years, and becoming acquainted with so many vibrant new members, have brought joy and inspiration. The relationships with the young people in the Confirmation class, the dedication of the "Staging a Miracle Team," the many pastoral connections that reveal the depth of love and caring in this community, the dedication of staff and volunteers—all underscore the strength and vision that is alive at First UMC. I trust that you will embrace Don Lee and his pastoral leadership, and that your gifts and his will grow to benefit all.

In faith, hope and love,  
Pastor Larry George

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....and *much more*, inside & at [www.firstumcsac.org](http://www.firstumcsac.org)

### THANK YOU!

The Volunteers In Mission Team from First United Methodist Church, Sacramento shouts out a big THANK YOU to everyone who helped make "A Taste of New Orleans" successful. The VIM Team could not have done it without:

MOM's – Dessert Donations and Dessert Table Design

FUMC Youth (Jr. & Sr. High) and their fabulous leader, for their expert serving skills

Silent Auction Donors—the many, many generous donors who gave wonderful items to be placed in the auction.

Kitchen Staff – The expert abilities of those hands which helped prepare the fabulous meal.

Those of you who purchased tickets and donated them so that others could enjoy the evening.

Those of you who purchased tickets so that you could enjoy the evening.

All of you who bid in the auction and took home the fabulous items.

The Joey V Trio for the wonderful music.

All of you who donated time/talent/gifts in any way at all!

No names were mentioned above for fear of leaving someone off the list. Please know that this does not diminish our *sincere* gratitude for your help! A Taste of New Orleans was an extremely fun evening and we netted over \$2,000 toward our trip. These proceeds will fund scholarships for some of our team members as well as allow us to ...provide money and/or supplies to the people of New Orleans.

Blessings from your 2011 VIM Team  
Cathy and Mike Cook, Connie Delago-Langlois, Phil Dunzweiler, Kris Errecart, Terry Haug, Bev Ireland, Aaron Johnson, Dick Johnson, Mike McDoniels, Diane Smith, Jenn Wong

## Pastor Don's Dabblings

Greetings in the name of Christ!

I give thanks to Bishop Brown who has appointed me to be among you as your new pastor! I am delighted to be serving side-by-side with you in Christ's ministry in Sacramento. Meeting a few of you these past weeks has been a heart-warming experience and the opportunity to get to know all the folks at First Church is one to which I look forward with great anticipation.

The title of my notes, "Dabblings" in *The Visitor* might sound to you a little superficial, as if dabbling was an activity of little consequence. However, another meaning is to "tinker." This is more of what I had in mind when considering ministry with you in Sacramento.

This spring, I took a class through our seminary at Claremont called "Ministry with Young Adults." One of the important readings included a chapter on tinkering. The author was referring to a kind of improvisational mode rooted in tradition but made new through engagement with current realities. The author mentioned the fast-paced changes and transitions our culture is experiencing and which particularly affect young adults. These changes and transitions require "tinkering" in order to be woven into our spiritual landscapes.

My understanding is that First Church has been in the midst of many changes and transitions these past few years, particularly this past year. New ministries, new staff, and new realities in Midtown may have led some folks to a kind of disorientation. Sometimes, intense transitions leave us feeling out of balance, like a kind of spiritual vertigo. But if we allow ourselves the freedom to "tinker," then those transitions can become opportunities for something new and wonderful...and as yet, unknown!

Think of jazz musicians improvising on an old standard tune. While the tune may be well-known to all, the result of "tinkering" with it creates a whole new experience, both for the musicians and for the listeners. Sometimes, this new experience becomes the "new standard," cementing itself in the hearts of all who have ears to listen.

I suspect our initial time together will be one of "dabbling" or "tinkering," blending what is familiar, well-known, traditional with that which leads to a whole new experience. I look forward to taking this journey with you as we work together to do our part in building God's realm in this time and place!

In Christ's love,

Pastor Don

### About Our Folks

♥ **Fred Hoyt** is resting at home and continues to have frequent blood transfusions as an out-patient. ♥ **Bonnie Churchill, Eltweed Pomeroy, Jackie Thompson, and Delight Trotter** continue to receive care in convalescent facilities. ♥ **Carl Thomas** has finished chemotherapy treatments and expects to complete radiation therapy by the end of April. He's recuperating from side effects and is in good spirits. ♥ **Larry Sidener** is undergoing simultaneous courses of chemotherapy and radiation for a pancreatic tumor. ♥ **Keith and Mary McDaniel's** son in Kansas, **Mark McDaniel**, is recuperating and has returned to work after a stroke, which was initially misdiagnosed as multiple sclerosis. ♥ **Nell Alford** is recuperating at home, with the help of a close friend and her family. ♥ **Irene and Marvin Brown** are celebrating that their daughter, **Nola Agha**, has completed rigorous chemotherapy and radiation treatments. ♥



### Confirmations

Nathaniel Thomas  
Price  
Sabria Tiana Boykins  
Adam Jacob Archuleta  
Darniece Renee Simon  
Analisa L. Johnson  
Jerry Adams  
Carolyn Adams  
Shelton Clark  
Emily Sanchez

### Confirmed and Baptized

- Darniece Renee Simon

### New Members Received

Robert Herrmann  
Paula Nobert



Elizabeth Monk, long-time and beloved member of FUMC peacefully passed away in her sleep on April 6. She was 105 years old. A memorial service and luncheon is planned for Thursday, May 26 at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary and Terrace Room.

### Farewell for Now

**W**e would like to thank our FUMC friends and family for so many wonderful years together. We have decided to take a hiatus from First Church to allow some time for transitions in the music program and in our own lives. It has been a blessing and pleasure to be part of this church and the music program with The Chancel Choir. They are a very special, dedicated, caring, talented and extraordinary group. Our Church is very fortunate to have them as part of its ministry. Our prayers and best wishes are with them, our new pastor, Reverend Don Lee, new Director of Music, Jeffrey Abbott and all of you for continued success. Thank you again for the love and support over the years, the wonderful celebration and gift of the anthem and all of your good wishes. We sent over 100 thank you notes and hope that we did not miss anyone.

God bless and farewell for now,  
Clyde and Brenda



Johnny Morales, on our maintenance staff, has become a grandfather. Daughter, Cecelia, has given birth to a son, Robert Isaiah Holguin, on April 12 in Sacramento. Robert weighed in at 8 lbs 2 oz

and measured 20 ½ inches tall. Sister, Alexia, is thrilled with her new brother and is helping mom all she can.

### What's Looking Different on the Corner of 21<sup>st</sup> and J?

**Y**ou've probably noticed some changes to our church signage on the corner of 21<sup>st</sup> and J Streets (on the J St. side). Last June, a brick was thrown through the glass window. We quickly installed a small banner to camouflage the problem and to prevent tagging on the chip-board covering the damage. Over the last ten months, the Board of Trustees has been researching a suitable replacement sign. The plan was to install an electronic reader board and cover the entire sign with Lexan®. Because the church is an historic building and electronic signage is limited in the city, we navigated several rounds of compromise to reach our desired result. The sign has been ordered and FUMC will be the first historic building in the City of Sacramento with this signage. The electronic reader board and the protective Lexan® cover are in place. We are awaiting delivery of the sign identifying the church, which will be placed above the reader board and will include stained and opalescent glass. We are grateful to an anonymous donor for the generous gift of \$5,000 toward the signage. Next time you come to church, notice the new signage!

On Friday, April 15, FUMC was honored at a community event sponsored by People of the Way Ministries. The event held at Calvary Christian Center honored First Church for its community service ministries. Pastor John Sublett received a plaque on behalf of the congregation. Linda Kelly-Baker received a humanitarian award for Side by Side Ministry.

### Heads-up! Jimmy Creech to Speak at Conference Dinner

Activist Jimmy Creech will address the Methodist Federation for Social Action on June 15 at their dinner during Annual Conference. Call Jean Reynolds, (510) 235-2988, for information.

ACIM = A Course in Miracles group  
 = Imani Community Church  
 NA = Narcotics Anonymous/12-Step Program  
 NFYW = Not Finished Yet Women's group  
 SGMC = Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus  
 UMW = United Methodist Women (# = Circle)

May 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>1</b></p> <p><i>See FUMC Sundays</i>                      Communion Sunday                      Special Welcome to new pastor, Rev. Don Lee, Choir Director/Organist, Jeffrey Abbott, Children's and Youth Minister, Karla Lundin</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>6 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>7 pm Imani Bible Study                      7 pm N/A 12 Steps</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>7:00 p.m. Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal                      7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>7:00 am. Prayer Walk                      8:00 a.m. Leadership Team Retreat (off-property)                      2:00 p.m. Ragtime Concert</p>
<p><b>8</b></p> <p>Happy Mother's Day  <i>See FUMC Sundays</i>                      8:30 a.m. Missions Committee                      Imani Community Church Meeting                      6:00 p.m. Imani Community Church</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>6:00 p.m. Master Singers Rehearsal                      6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>7:00 p.m. A Course in Miracles                      7 pm Imani Bible Study                      7 pm N/A 12 Steps</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>5:30 p.m. Not Finished Yet Program                      7:00 p.m. Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal                      7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>8:00 p.m. Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus Concert</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>10:00 a.m. Piano Studio Recital                      10:00 a.m. "Staging A Miracle" Volunteers Meeting                      8:00 p.m. Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus Concert</p>
<p><b>15</b></p> <p><i>See FUMC Sundays</i>                      12:00 p.m. Leadership Team – All church Luncheon                      6:00 p.m. Imani Community Church</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>6:30 p.m. Master Singers Rehearsal                      7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>6:00 p.m. Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal                      6:15 p.m. Forever Young Board</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>7 pm Imani Bible Study                      7 pm N/A 12 Steps</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>5:30 p.m. Not Finished Yet Program                      7:00 p.m. Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal                      7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>7:00 a.m. Prayer Walk                      9:00 a.m. United Methodist Women District Spiritual Program                      8:00 p.m. Master Singers Concert</p>
<p><b>22</b></p> <p><i>See FUMC Sundays</i>  <b><u>Family Promise Participants in residence for the week</u></b>  <b><u>May 22 arrive and leave</u></b>  <b><u>May 29</u></b>                      8:30 a.m. Community Breakfast</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>6:00 p.m. "Staging A Miracle" Board Meeting</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>7:00 p.m. A Course in Miracles                      7 pm Imani Bible Study                      7 pm N/A 12 Steps</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>11:00 a.m. Memorial Service for Elizabeth Monk                      12:00 noon Luncheon following the Memorial Service                      5:30 p.m. Not Finished Yet – Women's Program</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>Memorial Day Weekend begins...</b>                      9:00 a.m. United Methodist Women – Memorial Day Brunch Inviting all church women</p>
<p><b>29</b></p> <p><i>See FUMC Sundays</i>                      8:30 a.m. Community Breakfast</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>Memorial Day Holiday – Church Office Closed</p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	<p><b>Sundays at FUMC</b>                      9:15 AM Wired Word Study                      9:15-11:30 AM Infant/toddler care, Children's Enrichment programs, Adult Education                      10:30 AM Worship; Sunday school programs for children and youth; Infant/toddler care                      11:30 AM Fellowship ;12:00-2:00 PM Youth Group                      6:00 PM Imani Community Church</p>			

## Youth News...

Thank you to all who participated in E-waste. This helped the youth earn money for our summer mission trip to Sierra Service Project (SSP).

Watch for these upcoming opportunities in May to support the youth:

**Coin Drive** - Please bring all of your extra coins and drop them into one of our containers during May and June to help with SSP.

**SSP Stock Sales** – May 1 - It's that time again. Take part and 'own' a piece of our successful Sierra Service Project by becoming a 'stockholder'.

**Car Wash** – Sunday, May 22

We appreciate all of your support for the youth here

## Children's Ministries:

Thank you to those who donated items for the Easter Egg Hunt. The children enjoyed it!

**Sunday, May 29**

**Memorial Day Weekend**

ALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH WILL STAY IN WORSHIP SERVICE ON SUNDAY, MAY 29.

There WILL be CHILD CARE in the Nursery during the 10:30 am Worship Service for INFANTS, TODDLERS, and younger Preschoolers if needed.

## More Reasons to View Your FUMC Visitor Online

Receiving your *Visitor* by email is a quick and easy way to access news online about your church and community. However, even if you elect to continue to receive your *Visitor* by paper copy, you can still view the *Visitor* online at [www.firstumcsac.org](http://www.firstumcsac.org) and there are three very good reasons this month to do so. Three stories in this issue are drawn from news releases by the UMC News Service regarding important changes to the General Board of Global Ministries, a major restructuring of United Methodist Women, and how UMCOR is assisting in Japan's recovery from the earthquake and tsunami of six weeks ago. Each of these articles contain "links" that you can click on to access additional information, if you are viewing the *Visitor* online.

## **A Note From Your Editors**

We don't ordinarily include much in the *Visitor* regarding the UMC and its governing bodies, preferring to use the space to inform readers of what is happening at FUMC. And that will continue to be an editorial standard. Sometimes, though, news of change comes to us that will influence how the church operates, and we will share news of that type of importance. Two articles this month are about major changes to the General Board of Global Ministries and to the United Methodist Women.

## UMW Seeks to Become Separate Church Agency

The division responsible for United Methodist Women has decided to seek denominational approval for status as a separate agency of the church.

Directors of Women's Division, the organization's administrative body, unanimously voted during their April 7-11 meeting to "structurally separate" but remain "missionally connected" with the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries rather than continue as a division of the mission agency.

On April 12, the Directors of the General Board of Global Ministries approved this proposal by a nearly unanimous vote. Part of the goal, said Harriett Olson, the division's chief executive, is to create more transparency and strengthen relationships throughout the church, as advocated by the Call to Action plan endorsed by the United Methodist Council of Bishops.

"The Call to Action challenges the church to do something bold," she told United Methodist News Service. Research from the Call to Action "really made us realize how beneficial it would be to have a broader program advisory group with all the conferences represented," Olson said. She also expects the new structure to allow more frequent regional training for a broader array of members and "new permutations of organizing we haven't even thought of."

Under its new structure, the Women's Division also would shed its name and be known as United Methodist Women Inc., a nonprofit organization.

UMW would continue to name five directors to the Global Ministries' board, and collaboration on mission strategies and programs is expected to continue through broad cross-functional teams. UMW staff would provide the continuing presence at the United Methodist Office at the United Nations on behalf of both agencies.

UMW plans to cut its board of directors in half — from 50 to 25 members — but also create a program advisory group of 70-80 members, including the directors. The advisory group would meet annually and make recommendations on programs, training and social policies.

## *Approval by 2012 General Conference*

Many of the proposed structural changes require approval by the 2012 General Conference, the denomination's top legislative body. If approved, the changes would take effect on Jan. 1, 2013, but directors for the 2013-16 quadrennium would be elected earlier under the guidelines for the new model, Olson said.

Directors will have a special meeting on July 9 in Nashville to approve the appropriate legislation for General Conference.

The structural relationship between the Women's Division and Board of Global Ministries dates from 1964, but division directors actually started the process toward separation two years ago.

In April 2009, the Women's Division voted to accept, in principle, the "proposed strategic direction" offered by the cabinets of both the division and the Board of Global Ministries. A more detailed plan was approved the following October.

The new direction allowed the division to assume direct responsibility for relationships with its national mission institutions; all ministries with women, children and youth; and the board's office of deaconess and home missioner program. Funding contributions by the division to several board administrative budgets also ceased.

Noting that United Methodist Women has "always been a vital part of the mission connection," Thomas Kemper, the Board of Global Ministries' chief executive, expressed confidence about the new relationship.

"We will continue to be intentional partners as we work together in pursuit of God's mission in the world," he said.

The Board of Global Ministries cabinet had seen both proposals presented to the Women's Division — to stay in the current administrative configuration or to separate structurally — in advance of the meeting and had input into the process.

"Thomas and I are hoping that we get a joint proposal or complimentary proposals that would help us communicate to General Conference that we are seeking this together," Olson said.

## *Focus on women, children and youth*

In its proposal on the new structure, the division's policy committee pointed to the need to keep the concerns and perspectives of women, children and youth as the basis of UMW's work.

Educating the entire church and empowering women to grow spiritually and as leaders also are priorities, along with the need "to ensure that UMW is a primary place for women to grow as disciples and express their commitment to Christ through compassionate service and passionate advocacy on behalf of women, children and youth around the world."

On a financial level, UMW is funded solely by its membership, so a separate structure will not mean significant changes, said Martha Knight, division treasurer. "We have been standing on our own all along," she explained to directors. "We currently are not getting money from any organization. We do not get apportionment money (from the general church)."

UMW does rely on some shared services with the Board of Global Ministries, such as payroll, audit and computer technology, and expects to continue those contracts, she said.

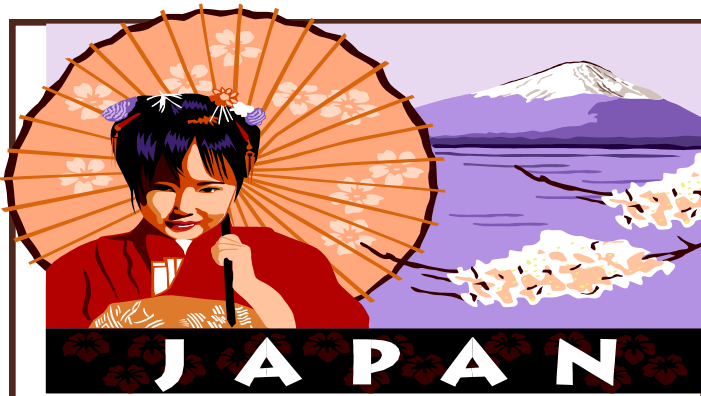
The new plan also makes changes aimed at greater flexibility for the jurisdictional, conference, district and local levels of UMW. A congregational UMW group will be known as "the local organization of United Methodist Women" rather than a "unit" and the number of required officers reduced to president, secretary and treasurer.

Several directors told the group that they consider flexibility a necessary change to attract and keep younger members.

"We are trying to catch some members that our structure would not allow us to catch," said Jeanette Westerfield, Kentucky Annual (regional) Conference. "I think we need to understand that changes need to be made in order for our organization to flourish and go on."

Jeanette Kraus of the East Ohio Conference, who works at Ohio Wesleyan, noted that the university had a UMW unit for five years "but they didn't stay (in a unit). They went to the Web. They're online community members."

In the new structure, UMW will allow local groups to "organize as they see fit" and offer models on how to handle the organization's functions and goals.



### **UMCOR Grant Helps Japan Institute Reopen**

After the ground stopped shaking on March 11, staff at the Asian Rural Institute in northern Japan began assessing the damage.

What they found, amid toppled bookcases and shattered dishes, was serious: The two-story Koinonia House, with its kitchen, dining hall, chapel and other facilities, was damaged to the point of being unusable. Repairs were required at other buildings, and numerous pipes in the institute's water system had ruptured because of the earthquake.

Now, a month later, repairs are under way and, with the support of a \$150,000 grant from the United Methodist Committee on Relief, the staff will be able to welcome its new students on May 2.

### **Governance and Structural Changes**

The United Methodist Church's worldwide mission agency took historical steps on April 12 toward becoming more flexible, effective, and cost efficient in response to contemporary mission opportunities. The actions reflect a denominational emphasis on the need for renewed, vital congregations and church organization in the 21st century.

Directors of the General Board of Global Ministries took three major interrelated actions. These affected the number of directors, relations with United Methodist Women, and a strategic plan for the future. The directors voted to reduce their number by two-thirds, from 92 to 32, while retaining a strong balance among members from the United States and units (called "central conferences") in Africa, the Philippines, and Europe. A long-held concern for diversity in membership along gender and racial lines will be upheld. In the next issue, there will be more information on these transformative steps.

### **Resource**

#### **The Senior Impact Project (SIP) Society for the Blind**

If you or someone you know is blind or has low vision this program may be of interest. Society for the Blind offers SIP to individuals aged 55 or older who live in the Sacramento, Chico, and Mount Diablo-Delta regions. All services, including transportation to and from select programs, are free. The mission is to empower individuals to live productively and independently by building confidence through training, tools and mentorship.

Offered monthly, in Sacramento, is a seven day intensive training. Seniors learn non-visual skills in order to maintain their independence. Classes include Cane Travel, Daily Living Skills, Introduction to Braille, and Introduction to Computers. Participants receive individual assistance from certified instructors and adept blind mentors. One of the goals is to match seniors with appropriate services. In-home training is available to those who qualify due to health or mobility reasons.

Participants may also engage in discussion groups and seminars on blindness and activities in the community. While each person is acquiring life-altering skills and positive attitudes they are also making connections with other seniors experiencing vision loss.

If you are interested you may contact Kathleen Shevlin, Senior Manager, Outreach and Development at (916) 889-7516. The Society for the Blind is located at 1238 S. Street, Sacramento, 95811.

In addition, I would welcome the opportunity to assist you with starting this program. You can reach me, Patricia Weedon, RN, at (916) 444-6931. This is a great program for learning to maintain as much independence as possible. Please share the information with others.

Patricia  
Faith Community Nurse

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**PERIODICALS**

**DATED MATERIAL—DO NOT DELAY**



***The Visitor* Deadline and Submission Info**

*The Visitor* is published monthly. Each issue includes the following month's calendar. **The deadline to submit items is the Wednesday before publication.** Items may be submitted by e-mail (best) or hard copy:

- **E-mail** to *The Visitor* editors Connie Fanos and Lynette Fazio at **theVisitor@firstumcsac.org** by **6:00 PM Wednesday**. Be sure Dianne Smith (dianne@firstumcsac.org) in the church office receives a copy of your item via e-mail cc.
- **Hard copy** submissions may be delivered to the church office, or to the editors by prior arrangement. When delivering to the church office, plan enough lead time for staff to transmit items to the editors.

**Upcoming deadlines for *The Visitor* are:**

- **May 25**
- **June 22**
- **July 20**
- **August 24**
- **September 21**

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